

MINUTES OF MARION CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING
COUNCIL CHAMBERS AT CITY HALL
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2021
6:30 P.M.

A regular meeting was held by City Council on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 6:30 p.m. Mayor Ashley Brady presided. Council members Ralph Atkinson, Ronald Atkinson, Michael Baker, Mayor Pro-tem Emerson Hunt, Joseph Frazier, and Tassie Lewis were present. Staff present were City Administrator Alan Ammons, City Treasurer Patricia Brown, City Attorney James Brogdon, Vickie Nichols, and Chief Bobby Crawford.

Mayor Ashley Brady called the meeting to order, gave the opening prayer and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Brady welcomed citizens, guests and Hometown TV to the meeting.

Councilman Joseph Frazier made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular City Council Minutes held on September 14, 2021. The motion was seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson; motion carried unanimously.

AUGUST EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Elma Fling was named the September Employee of the Month. Mayor Brady expressed his thanks to Mr. Elma Fling for his hard work in the Public Works Department. Mr. Elma has worked in the Public Works Department since December 2015. He was previously employed with Dusty Hill Country Club and has over twenty years of experience in landscaping and grounds maintenance. His duties include beautification projects such as planting trees and

preparing flower beds, moving grass in the summer, and decorating the City for Christmas and other holidays. Congratulations to you Mr. Elma Fling.

PROPOSALS ON PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Mayor Ashley Brady stated that 9 years ago the City did the first Capital Sales Tax Proposal and one of the alternate sales tax projects was playground equipment to be placed at Watsoina. With everything going on and changing and moving all our playground equipment and recreation equipment to Green Street, including in your packet is a proposal for the new playground equipment. The proposal is about **\$200** over what the City will be receiving from the Capital Sales Tax. This will be on a national contract. Mayor Brady asked for a motion if this meet with council approval to move forward with the purchase of the playground equipment from the Capital Sales Tax. Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to approve the proposal from Bliss Products in the amount of **\$54,942.27** as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried.

Location of Playground Equipment

Mayor Ashley Brady stated as he alluded to earlier, that the equipment was originally approved to be used at Watsoina Recreation Center. Since everything is being migrated to the Green Street Complex, a motion is needed to approve that the new playground equipment be placed at Green St. Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to approve the new location. The motion was seconded by Mayor Pro-Tem Emerson Hunt; motion carried. Mayor Brady asked if there were any discussed? Councilman Ralph Atkinson

said he had a quick question. He stated this is a larger piece of land and asked if we knew where the playground equipment would be placed? Mayor Brady said not right now, but the city is working with Alliance Consulting to do a master plan in that area. Once completed, they will have the footprint and we will be able to center the equipment with the ball fields.

PDRTA - Reappointment

A motion was made by Councilman Joseph Frazier and seconded by Councilman Michael Baker to reappoint Mrs. Vivian Rogers to the PDRTA Board for a three year term.; motion carried unanimously.

EMPLOYEE SAFETY COMMITTEE:

Councilman Ronald Atkinson made a motion to appoint/reappoint the following committee members for a 4-year term:

- Chandler Tisdale – Appointed October 2021 for term ending June 2025
- Elizabeth Gray - Reappointed October 2021 for term ending June 2025
- Randy Brown - Appointed October 2021 for term ending June 2025
- Winky Fore -Reappointed October 2021 for term ending June 2025
- Captain Marilyn Rogers - Appointed October 2021 for term ending June 2025

The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis; motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Ammons updated Council on Covid-19 operations. Mr. Ammons stated that we are in full force of operations and everything is up and running. And the numbers for Covid has

come back from last month report. We are now in single digits, which is down from last month's double digits.

Mr. Ammons said earlier Councilman Frazier hit him with a tree question a while back. He had an idea which looks like it's going to work out for us. It was to beautify the Green Street area through Gurley Street and around the new sports complex. After researching and checking some prices, the flood commission was contacted. Looks like we're going to get between 200-300 trees. The Governor's initiative is to plant 10 million trees in 10 years. The trees will be between 3-5 gallons. They will do a Master Plan for the Green Street area, Gurley Street, and around the park areas. We will also have enough trees to give away free to the public. They're very ambitious. They are looking to have the plans done and trees here by Friday, December 3, 2021 for Arbor Day. This will be no cost to the City. The only cost we will incur is to take care of the trees like we have done for the previous one that was planted in 2019 along the Hike-Bike Trail. We are also going to try and get some cypress trees to plant on pass the bridge.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson commented that we have a lot of underground telephone lines, and suggested that we don't plant any trees under the lines. Councilman Baker stated that these are Crepe Myrtles and they don't grow that tall. Mr. Ammons said as soon as he gets the plans he will get them back to council to review. They were really impressed with Marion and they used Hike-Bike Trail as an example. We planted all those trees and we thought we lost two but we didn't lose any. They came out of the blue one day and took pictures and couldn't believe how good they look. Mayor Brady said hats off to Public Works for doing a great job.

CITY ATTORNEY'S LEGAL UPDATE

City Attorney James Brogdon had no update.

DISTRICTS AND CITY UPDATE FOR COUNCIL AND MAYOR

Mayor Ashley Brady stated that they met last week with our Grant Writer and they are working grants for two storm water project and couple of smaller grants. Also, we have contacted Duke Energy this month for a proposal to switch out all the street lights again to LED lights. Once we get the proposal we probably could use ARP money to take care of the cost factor on that so we're not coming out of the City's budget. They will tell us the lead time after we approve it could be between 6-8 months before they can start, but once they start they said they probably can knock it out in a month or so. Mayor stated that a lot of cities are going this way. He stated that any street lights that are out they are supposed to be changing those to LED.

Councilman Michael Baker had no comments at this time.

Councilman Joseph Frazier had no comments at this time.

Councilman Ronald Atkinson asked what we can do with all the loud music and guys with their pants hanging off. Noise so loud couldn't conduct business in the store. Chief Crawford stated he will put that out to the officers to make sure they are aware of this.

Councilman Ralph Atkinson had no comments at this time.

Councilwoman Tassie Lewis stated she wanted everyone to please be safe in your neighborhoods, if you see something that looks suspicious please call the authorities. Crime is very

terrible and we are trying to keep everyone safe, especially our seniors and children. Please be extra careful during Halloween. Mayor Brady stated that Halloween would be observed on October 31st, from 6:00 pm until 8:00 p.m. in the City of Marion.

Pro-Tem Emerson Hunt had no comments at this time others than everyone stays safe.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Councilman Ralph Atkinson and seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson to go into executive session to discuss Personnel Matters; City Clerk, Fire Department, Public Works and a Contractual Matter.

POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION ITEMS

Returning from executive session, Councilman Ralph Atkinson made a motion to return to regular session and seconded by Councilman Ronald Atkinson; motion carried. Mayor Brady asked if there were any matters taken care of in executive session. Councilman Michael Baker made a motion to authorize the City Treasurer to make necessary adjustment in the Public Works Department to move funds in the amount of **\$14,336** for pay adjustment salaries to begin January 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilman Joseph Frazier; motion carried. A motion was made by Councilwoman Tassie Lewis to hire Ms. Lakesha Shannon as the new City Clerk. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried. A motion was made by Mayor Pro-Tem Emerson Hunt to allow the Mayor to pursue putting the Gulf Wars Iraq-Afghanistan monument together and giving him authority to pursue funds and go forth with the

ordering of the monument. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

CONTRACTUAL MATTER

Mayor Pro-Tem Emerson Hunt made a motion to authorize Mayor Brady and the City Administrator to go forth in proceeding with G & A Contractor out of Georgetown with the \$5,000 bid to demo the house on Waverly Way Street. The motion was seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no further business, a motion was made to adjourn by Councilman Ralph Atkinson and seconded by Councilman Michael Baker; motion carried.

Mayor Ashley Brady

Interim City Clerk Vickie J Nichols